

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition suitable for oral administration comprising:  
~~an edible oil homogenized with an edible wax at a concentration ranging from 0.5 % to 50% by weight based on the total weight of the composition and a sterol compound at a concentration of at least 0.1% by weight based on the total weight of the composition~~  
an edible oil that is homogenized with
  - i) an edible wax at a concentration ranging from 0.5 % to 50% by weight based on the total weight of the composition, and
  - ii) a sterol compound selected from the group consisting of stigmasterol, campesterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, chalinosterol, clionasterol, brassicasterol,  $\alpha$ -spinasterol, daucosterol, desmosterol, poriferasterol, and analogs and derivatives thereof at a concentration of at least 0.1% by weight based on the total weight of the composition  
wherein the edible oil, edible wax and sterol compound are homogenized to form colloid with the edible wax adopting a microcrystal form at ambient temperature.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the sterol compound is 0.5% to 20% by weight.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the sterol compound is 1% to 10% by weight.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the edible wax is 3% to 30% by weight.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the edible wax is 5% to 20% by weight.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the edible wax is 6% to 10% by weight.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the edible wax is selected from the group consisting of beeswax, castorwax, glycowax, and carnaubawax.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the edible wax is beeswax.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the edible oil is an animal or plant oil.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the edible oil is selected from the group consisting of corn oil, wheat germ oil, soy bean oil, rice bran oil, rapeseed oil, sesame oil, and fish oil.
11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the edible oil is sesame oil.
12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising propolis at a concentration ranging from 0.1 % to 30% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
13. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains less than 1% of water by weight.
14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains less than 0.1% of water by weight.
15. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formulated in an oral dosage form selected from the group consisting of tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, emulsions, gels, syrups, slurries, and suspensions.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formulated in a soft or hard gel capsule.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the sterol compound is a combination of stigmasterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, and campesterol.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the sterol compound is  $\beta$ -sitosterol.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising baicalin.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein baicalin is at a concentration ranging from about 0.01 to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of Huangqin (*Scutellaria baicalensis* Georgi) in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The composition of claim 23, wherein Huangqin is selected from the group consisting of *Scutellaria viscidula* Bge, *Scutellaria amoena* C. H. Wright, *Scutellaria rehderiana* Diels, *Scutellaria ikonnikovii* Juz, *Scutellaria likiangensis* Diels and *Scutellaria hypericifolia* Levl of Labiatae Family.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising obaculactone.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the concentration of obaculactone is 0.01-50% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
28. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of huangbai (*Phellodendron amurense* Rupr) in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein huangbai is selected from the group consisting of *Phellodendron chinense* Schneid, *Phellodendron chinense* Scheid var. *glabriusculum* Schneid, *Phellodendron chinense* Schneid var. *omeiense* Huang, *Phellodendron* Schneid var. *yunnanense* Huang and *Phellodendron chinense* Schneid var. *falcutum* Huang.
31. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising obabenine.
32. (Original) The composition of claim 31, wherein the concentration of obabenine ranges from 0.001% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
33. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of huanglian (*Coptis chinensis* Franch) in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Original) The composition of claim 33, wherein huanglian is selected from the group consisting of *Coptis deltoidea* C. Y. Cheng et Hsiao, *Coptis omeiensis* (Chen) C. Y. Cheng, and *Coptis teetoides* C. Y. Cheng of Ranunculaceae Family.

36. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising berberine at a concentration ranging from about 0.001% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
37. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising narcotoline at a concentration ranging from about 0.001% to 2% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
38. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of ~~puppy~~ poppy capsule (*Papaver somniferam* L.) in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.
39. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 38, wherein the edible oil is an extract of ~~puppy~~ poppy capsule in an amount of 1-50% by weight in sesame oil based on the total weight of the sesame oil.
40. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of a combination of huangqin, huangbai and huanglian in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.
41. (Canceled)
42. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of a combination of huangqin, huangbai, huanglian and poppy capsule in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.
43. (Canceled)
44. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of earthworms in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an extract of a combination of huangqin, huangbai, huanglian, poppy capsule and earthworms in aqueous solution, organic solvent or a combination thereof.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) The composition of claim 48, wherein edible wax is beeswax.

50. (Original) The composition of claim 49, wherein the microcrystal form of beeswax is 0.1-100  $\mu\text{m}$  in length.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Original) The composition of claim 49, wherein at least two of the microcrystals of beeswax aggregate to form a microcrystal complex.

53. (Original) The composition of claim 49, wherein the microcrystals of beeswax are dispersed substantially uniformly in the edible oil.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising:  
a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

56. (Original) The composition of claim 55, wherein edible wax is beeswax.

57. (Original) The composition of claim 56, wherein the pharmaceutically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, antibiotics, antiviral agents, antifungal agents, antineoplastic agents, analgesics, tranquilizers, narcotic antagonists, antidepressants, antihistamines, antimigraine, cardiovascular drugs, calcium channel blockers, appetite suppressant, contraceptive agents, corticosteroids, local anaesthetics, diuretics, antihypertensive agents, steroids, prostaglandins, anti-inflammatory drugs, antithrombotic agents, cardiac glycosides, antiparkinsonism, chemical dependency drugs, acidic drugs, and peptides.

58. (Original) The composition of claim 56, wherein the pharmaceutically active ingredient is a salicylate.

59. (Original) The composition of claim 58, wherein the salicylate is aspirin.